



DEUCE LIGHTNING

April 2010
Edition 1



2D SIGNAL BRIGADE NEWSLETTER

"BRIGADE OF EXCELLENCE"



COL Miller hails CPT Sirena Sias, HHC Company Commander at the Hail and Fairwell on 7 April.



CSM Brooks fairwells SGT Esaid Olvera at the Hail and Fairwell on 7 April.

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2D SIGNAL BRIGADE

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UPCOMING EVENTS

USAREUR Training Holiday	May 28
Memorial Day	May 31

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MESSAGE FROM THE BRIGADE COMMAND TEAM



COL Miller

CSM Brooks

“Continue to work hard and put a positive influence on your organization “

- COL Miller

Dear Soldiers, Civilians, Friends and Family,

April was a spectacularly productive and busy month as preparation for Austere Challenge 2010 consumed 110% of the Brigade's time. I am proud to say all your hard work paid off when it came time to execute. The same way a professional athlete does not compete without the proper preparation such as nutrition, exercise, and practice, we as a professional organization cannot compete and meet the communication needs of the post 9/11 Army without quality training. In this ever changing force structure, I am grateful to be able to serve alongside the caliber of Soldiers in the Brigade of Excellence, NET-COM, and USAREUR.

In the next two months, more changes are on the horizon. The Brigade headquarters is rolling full steam ahead with our move to Wiesbaden Army Airfield. This will bring us closer to our higher headquarters and facilitate transactions and staff coordination.

Also, I will be welcoming our incoming Brigade Commander, COL Mitchell Kilgo and changing command at the end of July.

I am very proud of the organization that I will hand over to him and expect

everyone to take the same pride in their section of the organization.

Continue to work hard and put a positive influence on your organization throughout the summer and enjoy the wonderful opportunities this part of the world has to offer.

HOOAH!

COL Gerald Miller



COL Miller speaking at the Hail and Fairwell on 7 April.



CSM Brooks displays one of the Brigade Fairwell Gifts.



MESSAGE FROM THE 6981ST CIVILIAN SUPPORT GROUP



Dear Members, Friends, and Family of the 6981st:

Transformation within USAREUR and relocation of units throughout Germany most often impact our daily schedule. While the move of 5th Sig Cmd is nearly done and 2D Sig Bde is starting to move we are asked to support different tasks in adding ICDS or PDS extensions in different buildings at WAAF. Another task there is to reroute an existing CDS consisting of several FO and Copper cables to free up the ground for the construction of the Command & Battle Center building. But also in Mannheim we have

short notice requirements to install CDS and ICDS networks to support the move of units like MAM from Funari to Spinelli Barracks or the 95th MP BN to Coleman Barracks.

This month we had a team at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. We installed an ICDS and finished this task just at the time Germany and several other European countries stopped all flights because of the ash cloud from the volcano eruption at Iceland. So we had a hard fight to get our guys back to Germany, but finally the Air Force brought them back to Ramstein 5 days behind schedule.

Greetings from the cabling experts!

We connect!

Gerd Drechsler



Cable and conduit getting ready to be rerouted.

THE 6981ST CIVILIAN SUPPORT GROUP TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS



Mr. Pfeiffer, Mr. Ulmer and Mr. Lavan discussing the new route for the cables



(Right) Trenching the new route for those cables



MESSAGE FROM THE 39TH SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Mark R. Schonberg CSM Charles Miller

Dear Soldiers, Civilians, Friends and Family,

During the month of April, the 39th has been very productive on the job as well as in the community. With events such as Easter, weapons training, in/outbound Soldiers, inspections and other standard day to day operations, the 39th stays engaged. After the 128th Company Change of Command last month, April began with a final farewell and appreciation luncheon for their former Commander Captain Garrick Minor. Members of both companies in the 39th showed up to show their appreciation and respect for the Captain. The event

was filled with memories, jokes and all around fun for everyone.

Easter in Belgium brings around new things, such as spring showers and April flowers. It also brings families and friends closer together and begins the spring break season for most schools in the area. This holiday presents the perfect opportunity for quality



CPT Minor is presented with his Guidon's from his time as Commander for 128th Sig Co and HHD.



SPC Swett with his wife Leakhana watching their son Noah color with the other kids.



The XO, 1LT Hollweg, and 1SG Greene gave their remarks before presenting CPT Minor with this amazing gift of gratitude.

(Right) Families during the Easter egg hunt.



Olympia Chavarria posing with the Easter Bunny

time with Family and Friends. During spring break the Chièvres MWR put together a day of fun for the community, Soldiers and their Families at the Chièvres Community Recreation Center. Members of the 39th showed up with their Families and their kids enjoyed a round-robin set up with different activities designated by age group. Some of the activities included: balloon animal making, a relay race, Easter egg hunt, face painting and other fun activities. The event was visited by the distinguished Easter Bunny, and AFN showed up with the AFN Eagle. Overall this day brought Families together and provided a positive atmosphere where kids and families celebrated and enjoyed themselves.

LTC Mark R. Schonberg

CSM Charles Miller



39TH SIGNAL BATTALION EVENTS

Motorcycle Season , Motorcycle Safety

Community motorcyclists weaved their bikes through an IMCOM Eu-rope safe riding program Wednesday April 14th through Friday April 16th on Chièvres Air Base, focusing on handling maneuvers and braking under expert instruction.

Twenty-four riders of various experience levels participated in the free training, which is mandatory for all U.S. service members, family members and civilians to complete prior to riding legally in Europe. The 39th had 5 of 10 motorcyclists show up to the training with 4 passing the course. "This initiative is

designed to improve riding skills, and raise safety awareness among riders in the community," said Rudy Magain, installation safety officer. "Our purpose is to decrease motorcycle accidents in the SHAPE and Chièvres community. Riding is dangerous, especially in Belgium due to the current condition of the roads after the harsh winter we had. This training prepares riders to meet the challenges on the road and to always remember safety first."

Ending out the month of April, the 39th conducted weapons qualification and record APFTs for all its Soldiers. Soldiers qualified with M16A2 Assault Rifles and the Officers qualified using M9s. This training is conducted quarterly to ensure that the unit stays combat ready! We will see you next month, be safe and enjoy the weather!!

Sgt. Michael Lynch, USAG Benelux receiving instructions from Detlev Mahlstaede, a rider coach based in Germany for the Motorcycle Safety Foundation.



39TH SIGNAL BATTALION BIRTHDAYS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

Mr.	Philip	West	Apr 01
Mr.	Michael	Lee	Apr 09
MSG	Jacob	Endres	Apr 11
PV2	Justin	Jonquil	Apr 13
Mr	John	Beuckens	Apr 14
Mr.	Bruce	Graham	Apr 14
Mr	Shannon	Boykin	Apr 15
SSG	William	Jones	Apr 16
SGT	Otha	Weathersby	Apr 16
Mr	Steven	Plourde	Apr 17
Mr.	Raul	Rivera	Apr 18
Mr	Christopher	Newsome	Apr 22
Mr.	William	Lendzian	Apr 24
PFC	Hunter	Borash	Apr 26
PFC	Tyquan	Carter	Apr 28
Mr.	Jeffrey	Goldfarb	Apr 29



MESSAGE FROM THE 43D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Laroy Peyton

CSM Ricky Wallace

Stay Tuned to the Brigade Newsletter for Continued Updates on the happenings at 43d Signal Battalion such as our recent Field Training Exercise.

“Always Professional”
LTC Laroy Peyton,
Battalion Commander

Greetings from the Soldiers and Civilians of the “Always Professional” 43d Signal Battalion.

43D SIGNAL BATTALION FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE

In April the 43D Signal Battalion conducted its second Field Training Exercise (FTX), "Operation Eagle Strike". The FTX covered MOUT training, Movement to Contact, CBRN training, JNN and CPN training as well as some covert operations in which HHD came out the victor, acquiring both the 181st and 11th guidon.





MESSAGE FROM THE 44TH EXPEDITIONARY COMMAND TEAM



LTC Dwayne A. Dickens CSM Demetrius R. Steel

From the 44th Expeditionary Command Team:

April has been an extremely eventful month for the Battalion. Over three months of careful planning and hard work came to a head with the successful deployment of Bravo Company in support of OEF on 4 April. Three short months ago, Bravo Company and the 44th Signal Battalion started its "Road to War". During this long and arduous process the entire Battalion became a support mechanism that allowed Bravo Company to prepare for this short notice deployment. Every Company came together to do what was necessary to get the Bravo Dawgs out the door. It was truly an "Outstanding Team" effort. Whether it was assisting at the railhead, surging maintenance assets or reaching into shop stocks so that Bravo deployed with everything needed to operate as an Expeditionary Signal Company, the Battalion made it happen even as it continued to perform its other missions. Today, C Company has soldiers deployed to Kosovo, Alpha is supporting Austere Challenge and the 43d Signal Battalion FTX and HHC continues support all Battalion operations.

Spring changes of command are now underway. On 28 April we recognized the change of command between CPT Chris Sherwood and CPT Jason Halub. CPT Sherwood's command has presented many challenges. Chris took command just in time to move the company from Mannheim to Schweinfurt, a monumental task in itself that Chris and all

the Hawks can be proud of. Since HHC's arrival in Schweinfurt, the Company has completed RESET from OIF 07-09, supported the validation of the Battalions WIN-T fleet and the deployment of Bravo Company to Afghanistan. The accomplishments of this Company, is a true testament to its leadership. Chris Sherwood is an excellent example the kind of leadership that the Signal Corps needs as it meets the needs of our Army at war. When one commander departs, another must be chosen to take over. Command doesn't come automatically to an officer. You don't get the job by way of seniority, but by a record of excellence. Such is the case with the Hawks new commanding Officer, CPT Jason Halub. Jason is no stranger to 44th. He has proven himself as the Assistant S3 under the tutelage of MAJ Alvarado. We all look forward to continuing work with CPT Halub in his new role as the HHC Company Commander. We also look forward to working with CPT Sherwood as he prepares to take command of Charlie Company in June.

Looking to the summer months the Battalion is preparing for missions that will see the soldiers of the 44th ESB operating across Europe. In preparing for upcoming missions, the 44th is undertaking several exercises to prepare it for future deployments. The Battalion is fully engaged in training our newly arrived soldiers on SSSs, JNN and CPN assemblages. This process was initiated on the first week of April and will continue through the month of May. Each company will be rotating new soldiers onto their equipment and conducting equipment familiarization and crew certifications. The Battalion is committed to ensuring that all of our new soldier are

trained and mission ready. Nearly two-thirds of the Battalion has arrived in the last three months with more to come.

Lastly I would like to recognize our FSRA, MRS Kim Messer and the over 30 Outstanding soldiers who participated in the Battalions blood drive on the 27th. Job well done!

OUTSTANDING!

DWAYNE A. DICKENS, LTC, Commanding



44TH SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES



PHOTO BY: Nathan Van Schaik, USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs
Soldiers from the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion salute comrades en route to Afghanistan. Comrades, friends and family members gathered to bid Soldiers farewell early Easter morning at the Ledward theater as Soldiers with 5th Signal Command's Company B, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion deployed Sunday, April 4 to Afghanistan.



PHOTO BY: Nathan Van Schaik, USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs
Jennifer Vasquez and daughter, Asheena-Yvonne, with husband and father, Spc. Domingo Vasquez moments before he departed for Afghanistan. Comrades, friends and family members gathered to bid Soldiers farewell early Easter morning at the Ledward theater as Soldiers with 5th Signal Command's Company B, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion deployed Sunday, April 4 to Afghanistan.

44TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

Schweinfurt Soldiers deploy to Afghanistan

Story and photo by
NATHAN VAN SCHAIK
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

Comrades, friends and family members gathered to bid Soldiers farewell early Easter morning at the Ledward theater as Soldiers with 5th Signal Command's Company B, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion deployed Sunday, April 4 to Afghanistan.

"Our greatest responsibility is taking care of families and those left behind," said garrison commander, Lt. Col. Everett Spain, addressing a packed theater. "We're going to take care of your families. We're going to take care of your rear detachments."

The approximately 130 Soldiers from Bravo Company deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom will provide signal sup-

port for U.S. and coalition forces using the latest in satellite communications, or Joint Network Transport Capability-Spiral (JNTCS), according to Capt. Jason Allen, Co. B commander.

The company guidon was cased Friday, March 26 during a deployment ceremony held on the Ledward Barracks parade field, signifying the closure of the unit's activities in Schweinfurt.

The 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, whose rich history extends back to the Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns during World War II, provided its most recent support in Iraq. Bravo Company deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for the duration of 2008. Since then, Bravo Company accomplished in three months what typically takes units in a normal training cycle a year to do, according to the commander of the 2nd

Signal Brigade Command Group, Col. Gerald Miller.

Bravo Company increased unit readiness, moved from Mannheim to Schweinfurt and prepared a company to deploy within the last 16 months all while dealing with severe manpower shortages, Miller said at the deployment ceremony last week.

"Everybody's excited," said Sgt. 1st Class Ruben Mota, platoon sergeant for Co B, 44th ESB. "It's been three months of training so everybody's ready to get out there and do their job."



44TH SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES- BRAVO COMPANY

“MAKING HISTORY”

On April 4, 2010 we, the Bravo Dawgs, made history as B Company 44th ESB departed Schweinfurt, Germany for Afghanistan. “We were selected for this mission because our Soldiers are the best of the best (CPT Allen, B Co CDR).” What makes this deployment unique is that our company will be providing outstanding communication support for a new region in northern Afghanistan that before did not have any communications. We are proud of what the Soldiers have accomplished so far.



(Above: Final words from COL Miller, LTC Dickens, CSM Martinez, and CSM Steel before B Co departed Germany)

(Below: Our Soldiers running their first fiber cable)



(Right and Below:

Promotion for CPL Blumer, PFC Smith & PFC Norton)



(Left: Loading Bags in preparation for the flight to Afghanistan.

Bottom: Our Flight to Afghanistan)





MESSAGE FROM THE 52D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC James E. Pugh

CSM Mark A. George

Soldiers, Civilians, Family Members, and
friends of the 52d Signal Battalion:

LTC James E. Pugh

CSM Mark A. George



52D SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Name	Grade	Birthday
BENTON RAMON LASHANE	SPC	15-Apr
JONES NICOLE RANCHELLE YVET	SPC	15-Apr
EWEN KENNETH MARTIN	PFC	17-Apr
LOVE ANTHONY JAMES	SPCP	21-Apr
COEFIELD PAUL CHRISTO- PHER	SFC	21-Apr
HOCKENBRAUGH JOSHUA RYAN	SGT	22-Apr

NEW ARRIVALS, WELCOME!

LUCAS ANTHONY ALLEN JR	SPC
WRIGHT JOSHUA DONALD	PFC
BARBOZA JESSICA ISABEL	SGTP
TOPE JAY MICHAEL	SPCP
RILEY JAMIE JOSEPH	SPC
DERHAM ADAM MICHAEL	PFC



PICTURES FROM THE 52D SIGNAL BATTALION DINING IN





MESSAGE FROM THE 69TH SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Earl S.
Nakata

CSM Kristine A.
Purnell

As the summer season fast approaches, we must continue our commitment to safeguarding our Soldiers, Civilians, and Families. Historically, the off-duty fatality rates inevitably increase from April to September. To help protect our Band of Brothers and Sisters during this high-risk time of year, the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center launches the 2010 Safe Summer Campaign. This campaign, which runs April 1 – September 30, focuses on providing Soldiers, Civilians and their Family members the information you need to “play it safe” this summer.

Some summer safety topics include: Boating/Watercraft Safety, Heat Injury Prevention, Vacation Safety, Outdoor Grilling and Food Preparation, Fireworks Safety, Camping/Hiking Safety, Water/Swimming Safety, Sun Safety, and Running Safety. To read about what you can do to mitigate risk on each of these topics, go to <https://safety.army.mil>. As you read through these recent Army Preliminary Loss Reports, take the time to think about what you could have done to reduce or eliminate the risk (loss of life).

-A 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas, Soldier was killed in a motorcycle crash that occurred 07 April 2010 at approximately 2100 local in Gatesville, Texas. The 21-year-old SPC was riding his Suzuki GSXR 600 en route back to his duty station being followed by a fel-

low Soldier in a POV. The SPC was traveling at a high rate of speed when he lost control of the motorcycle and crashed. The Soldier who was following could not avoid the SPC and struck him. The SPC was wearing all required PPE but had not taken installation MSF training.

-A 1st Signal Brigade, NETCOM, Soldier was killed in a pedestrian accident off-post on 10 April 2010, at approximately 0400 local in Deagu, South Korea.

The 29-year-old SGT was struck by a taxi while attempting to cross the street at a designated crosswalk.

-A 172nd Brigade Combat Team, USAREUR Soldier was killed in a pedestrian accident off post on 14 April 2010, at approximately 2300 local near Buttenheim, Germany.

The 33-year-old SSG was on his way home to Grafenberg along A73 when he stopped to assist with a two vehicle collision. After he pulled off the roadway and turned on his hazard lights, he walked back to the vehicles and was helping to push one off the autobahn. Another vehicle traveling along the roadway struck them from behind and the SSG was killed on impact.

-Kitchen Fires

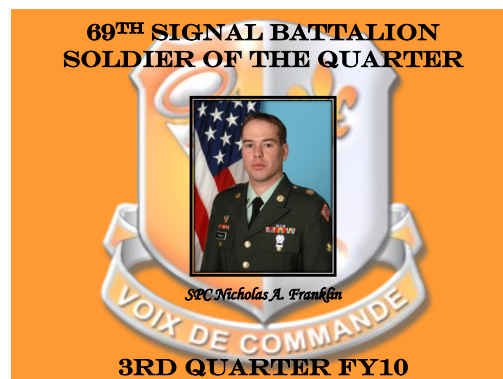
The first incident occurred in the Kulmain leased housing area on 18 Apr 10. The cause was unattended cooking in the kitchen. Damage consisted of a burned stove, cabinets, smoke damage to the kitchen and hallway area, ECOD is \$8000.00. The second incident was located in the Netzaberg housing area on 19 Apr 10 at approximately 1100 hours. The family member was cooking and left the kitchen area to give her child a bath. Upon returning found that the grease had ignited. The family member extinguished the fire and left to get assistance. The grease then re-ignited and was later extinguished by the Eschenbach and USAG Grafenwoehr Fire Department. Damage consisted of a burned stove, cabinets, smoke damage to the kitchen and hallway area, ECOD is \$8000.00.

It is imperative that leaders take an active interest in their Soldier's/Civilian's/Family's safety and intervene when the risks become too great. There is no better alternative than leader intervention in emphasizing the importance of following rules and standards.

Have a safe summer and remember, “Army Safe is Army Strong!”

“Voice of Command”

69TH SIGNAL BATTALION EVENTS



April Birthdays:

6 Apr - David Breeden, OC Hohenfels
9 Apr - Rob Lunden, OC Hohenfels
15 Apr - Harold Gilliam, S4
21 Apr - Adam McBride, OC Bamberg
21 Apr - Aurelio Pineiro, OC Romania
22 Apr - Thomas Zschokke, LWNSO
22 Apr - SGT Dameron Bostic, HHD
23 Apr - Josef Hermann, ROC
23 Apr - Chris Sweney, OC Bamberg
27-Apr - CH(CPT) Woodford Gerald, HHD



69TH SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES FROM FRG EASTER PARTY



Children get ready for the egg spoon race during the FRG Easter Party



MAJ Castellani dives to save his egg during the egg toss at the FRG Easter Party.



Still smiling after LTC Nakata receives a pie in the face from his XO, MAJ Castellani.



Chaplain Woodford looks upset as his own Chaplain's Assistant, SPC Whitfield bids on the pie to throw in his face.



Having fun at the egg toss during the FRG Easter Party.



SPC Zaval can't wait to put a pie in her Platoon Sergeant's (SFC Jackson) face during the FRG fund raiser.



MESSAGE FROM THE 72D-REAR SIGNAL COMPANY COMMAND TEAM



1SG Brian K.
Cantrell

CPT Sergio Trejo

72D ESB Soldiers and Family Members,

With only 70 days left for our battalion to redeploy, the Regulators continue establishing and setting our new home in Sullivan Barracks. The move took us a little longer than anticipated, however, thanks to the endless support we received from 5th Signal Command, 2nd Signal Brigade, and USAG-M we accomplished this mission. The Regulators continue engaging in daily operations such as redeployment preparation and establishing the living areas for every company in Sullivan Barracks. This is gear to make an efficient transition so when Soldiers return from Iraq, they will be able to fall right back in their quarters and on re-integration.

As the Battalion's Re-Deployment gets closer and closer, anticipation is growing. I can say this out of personal opinion because I can already feel it myself. We are all excited that the battalion is coming back and that finally the 72d Expeditionary Signal Battalion will be back and together once again. However, the Regulators know that we must stay focused on our missions. We will continue to provide quality support to the Family members as we prepare to bring their

loved ones back from a long deployment.

As with everything we do in life there is always change we had to say good bye to CPT (AIRBORNE) Leicht who commanded the Rear Detachment for the last fourteen months. CPT Leicht and, Aimee and their daughter Avery had contributed a lot to the success of this battalion and this company but unfortunately they will be leaving us on the 15 May 2010 heading to their new assignment in DC. We also take this opportunity to hail CPT Trejo, Sergio R. CPT Trejo previously commanded HHC, 72d ESB for 24 months and he comes from Iraq to take over the reins of the Rear Detachment until the battalion activates in September 2010. CPT Trejo will continue to support and care for our Soldiers and their Families. He is excited and looking forward to providing his assistance in any way possible.

Finally, please remember we are here to provide assistance to you all the way to the end. Please do not hesitate to call me at 0162-273-1041 if you need anything.

V/R

BRIAN CANTRELL

1SG, USA

Company First Sergeant

**“As the
Battalion's
redeployment
is getting
closer and
closer,
anticipation is
growing”**

- 1SG Cantrell



MESSAGE FROM THE 102D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Van D. Jarrell

CSM Robert A.

102d Signal Battalion Spiritual Fitness Trip

On Tuesday, 20 April 2010, some Junior Enlisted Soldiers and members of 102d Signal Battalion's Command Group traveled to Luxemburg for Duty Day with God observance. While in Luxemburg the Soldiers visited the American Cemetery and Memorial that is the final resting place for over 5000 of America's fallen heroes who fought and were mortally wounded during World War II in a war that became known as the Battle of the Bulge.

While visiting the cemetery the Soldiers learned that there are two Medal of Honor awardees buried there. Those two awardees were PVT William D. Mc Gee and SSG Day G. Turner. Among the Soldiers buried at the Luxemburg Cemetery is 2LT Nancy J. Leo, who is the only female Service member. Six of the fallen Soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment or better known as "Easy Company" are also buried there. The 3rd Army Commander, GEN George S Patton JR, who led these Soldiers to victory, is buried in this cemetery at the head of his troops. Soldiers were given an opportunity to explore the cemetery and memorial as well spend a few minutes meditating on this excerpt from Hebrews 11: 1-3;

"For faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed by faith, our ancestors received their approval. By faith we understand that the

worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible."

During the visit the Soldiers learned the importance of the stories of our heroes both fallen and living and even shared their own stories which showed their Patriotism to our beloved nation. Our spiritual resiliency is tied to our involvement in these stories and how they affect us today as individuals. Each of us has a part to play and each part we play is vital to our mission.

The second half of the journey took the Soldiers to Trier, Germany. First they enjoyed a wonderful meal at the Kartoffel Kiste Restaurant in the Marktplatz. Following lunch, they then made their way to the Porta Nigra. The Black Gate was a fortified gate for the city built in the 2nd Century. The gate became a church in the 1600s and despite several renovations the church was destroyed during the Napoleonic Wars. All that remains is the original sandstone structure, blackened from time and the affects of war.

The Soldiers had time for a short tour of the Dom Cathedral in Trier. The trip coincided with the "Holy Robe Days" in Trier, and for that reason the Cathedral was quite busy. The Soldiers learned that this was the first church built in Germany for the Dowager Empress, Helen, by her son Emperor Constantine. They learned where the original building was in relationship to the beautiful hulking building that resides in that location today. The Soldiers also learned of some of the timeless art pieces that reside in the cathedral as well as the historical articles that are housed in the Dom's treasury. The greatest of these articles is the Holy Robe of Christ, which is claimed to be the very robe for which the Roman

Guards cast lost following the Christ's crucifixion and burial.

Following the tour of the Dom the Soldiers were able to walk past a beautiful gothic church, the Liebfrauenkirche. This church resides next to the Dom. During Napoleon's occupation of Trier. He determined that since this building was of the Gothic Style, which of course originated in France, that it should not be harmed.

As the Soldiers continued their walk through Trier they traveled to Constantine's Basilica. The church that resides there now is an Evangelisch Kirche. It starkly contrasts with the Dom due to its simplicity and lack of iconic figures. The Basilica's roof was destroyed during WWII by American bombers. They also learned about the resistance to Hitler's rule by some Protestant ministers in Germany at the time. One of the leaders of this resistance was Dietrich Bonhoeffer who became one of the most influential theologians of the 20th Century.

The Soldiers then walked by the Roman Baths, or the Kaiserthermen. This massive structure was in use prior to Constantine's ascension to the throne. It was commonplace for both men and women to enjoy the bathing in this arena. As Christianity spread into Germany, the likelihood that both sexes would be bathing together diminished so much that public bathing fell out of style altogether.

The day was enjoyed by all, as both a long lesson in history and the ties we have to the past. The 102d Signal Battalion plans to continue these Spiritual Fitness Events and looks forward to the next opportunity to experience some more of what Germany has to offer to help strengthen our Spiritual well being.



102D SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES



(Left) Battalion representatives attended Spiritual Fitness Event, "Duty Day with God" at Trier, Germany.

(Below) Battalion representatives attended Spiritual Fitness Event, "Duty Day with God" at Trier, Germany. Behind is the gate of the Trier City.



(Above) LTC Jarrell and CSM Daniel walked through the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial.



(Left) LTC Jarrell and CSM Daniel walked through the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial.

Below is the Headstone of General Gorge S. Patton JR at Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial.





102D SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES



(Above) On 02 April 2010 the 102nd Signal Battalion had been visited by USAREUR CSM Blackwood and 5th Signal Command CSM Washington.



(Above) The newly promoted SPCs from left to right: SPC Wilkinson, SPC Kearney and SPC Rigdon.



(Above) SFC Kelly and SGT Robinson, showing their BBQ expertise on the FRG Easter Picnic on 02 April 10.



(Above) CPT Billingsley and newly promoted SGT Walthers showing their happiness for his new promotion.



(Above) On 16 April 2010 Battalion representatives attended a German Signal Battalion Change of Command Ceremony. Here is CPT Billingsley talking with CPT Zgardea. on 02 April 10.

(Right) CSM Daniel talking with German SGM Eiserloh.





102D SIGNAL BATTALION EVENTS/BIRTHDAYS

102d Signal Battalion Events/ Birthdays

02 APR 10	FRG Easter Picnic.
16 APR 10	Hails & Farewell.
16 APR 10	German Signal Battalion Change of Command Ceremony.
20 APR 10	Spiritual Fitness "Duty Day with God"
23 APR 10	NCO Induction Ceremony.



Birthdays April, 2010

	Date
SFC Breese	10 APR 10
SGT Borstad	16 APR 10
Mr Keller	16 APR 10
PFC Corpus	18 APR 10
Mr. Howard	18 APR 10
Mr. Bryant	22 APR 10
Mr. Barone	23 APR 10
Mr. Cox	24 APR 10
Mr. Bagchi	28 APR 10



SFC Uestuenel showing her happiness after officially retires from active duty on 13 April 2010.

HAILS

2LT Wilson
Mr. Roldan
PV2 Crimmins

DATE

01 APR 10
26 APR 10
23 APR 10

FAREWELLS

SFC Uestuenel
Mr Branco
Mr. Bauer

DATE

13 APR 10
23 APR 10
23 APR 10



509TH SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC G. Shawn Wells

CSM Chester D. Grelock

509TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

Service Project to Poland: So Others May Live

Service is that unselfish act done by one person or group of people that benefits another without expecting something in return. On April 10th 2010 the USAG-V Club Beyond, part of MCYM (Military Community Youth Ministries) under the leadership of Laura Livingston, conducted their annual service project, a program dedicated to community service in different countries. Eighteen of our young teens from Club Beyond Vicenza together with 24 other American teens from Aviano departed to Poland at 2300 to make the 16 hour journey and joined 200 others teens from other U.S. installations around Europe that converged to assist the Polish people. The excitement was high, our youngsters were eager to arrive at our destination. Just prior to our arrival the country received the news that their President had died in a plane crash earlier that same day. We shared in a week of mourning with the Polish people as they grieved the loss of their leader. Our time could not be more needed than ever.

Our first stop was the Birkenau concentration camp in Poland to pay our respects during the Day of Remembrance to those whom were killed during the Holocaust. This was an eye opening experience where both adults

and teens together quickly realized the horrors the Polish people have experienced.

This set the tone for the whole week. The whole world doesn't live like we do. It's not just the military environment that makes us different, but there's no better way to see the world and make a difference in it than on a Service Project. Our teens, ranging from 14 to 18 years old, took the opportunity to give themselves, their time, their energy, and their excitement to help people who will never be able to repay them during their spring break. For nine straight days our young men and women worked on building playgrounds, flower beds, beautification of buildings, painting, scrubbing and interacting with Polish teens their ages.

We visited schools for autistic and special needs teens. We worked together with the special needs children to build a fruit and vegetables garden. They took ownership of their garden quickly, what an awesome experience for our teens! Our teens also work on the beautification of a camp site dedicated to gather teens from around Europe to learn English, the Word of God and to worship. This 150 acre camp site host an annual conference for all ages dedicated to plan strategic service projects for years to come.

The impact of our teens were evident when in the day of our return from Poland, Polish teens cried our departure missing already the long lasting friendship they establish during these 10 days of selfish dedication to Poland. Our teens were ambassadors of our great nation and also ambassadors of love, compassion and service exalting the name of God everywhere they went. During the day they worked hard and during the night they worshiped God together with other Polish teens that never heard of God before.

My wife, daughter and I were blessed to serve together with these wonderful teens. They honor God and country by serving others less fortunate. They took their Spring break to go out to serve **so others may live!**



Vicenza and Aviano teens working on a flower bed together with special needs teens from Poland.



Chaplain and Mrs. Perez paying respect to victims of the Holocaust at the Birkenau Concentration Camp in Poland during Days of Remembrance.



509TH SIGNAL BATTALION PICS

Chaplain Perez together with autistic and special needs children.



509TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

Happy Retirement to Mr. Consolaro



509th Signal Battalion said goodbye to one of its Host Nation employees this month. Mr. Gianni Consolaro began working for Caserma Ederle on 3 July 1978 and dedicated 32 years of service to the Department of Army and Vicenza Military Community (VMC).

He began his working career at Caserma Ederle as a Supervisor within the Computer Room operating Virtual Machine (VM) computer systems working initially for the Southern European Task Force (SETAF). This employment

continued for approximately five years; with Mr. Consolaro transferring into the 509th Signal Battalion providing mainframe server operations support and information technology support. This continued until approximately six and a half years ago, when Mr. Consolaro transferred into the Plans and Project Branch and began serving as a Project Officer. Performing this new job, he became responsible for Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program (I3MP) - a project installing network infrastructure (underground conduit, cabling, network switches, etc.) throughout the Vicenza Military Community. This effort transitioned into other projects which included Building Infrastructure Cable Distribution System (ICDS) and Cable Distribution System (CDS) expanding NIPR and SIPR and telephone capacity, Information Technology infrastructure for new buildings on every Army installation within Italy; as well as Dal Molin installation supporting establishment of new contraction and renovation of existing legacy buildings. Regardless of the challenge, or complexity, Mr. Consolaro could

always be counted upon for mission success. Mr. Consolaro continued this outstanding level of support serving as a Plans and Project Officer within the Network Enterprise Center for the past two years concluding his career on 30 April 2010.

He is the husband to his wife Ilva, and also a proud father of two children: Francesco, who is 32 years old and Piera, who is 26 years old.

Throughout his time with the 509th Signal Battalion, Mr. Consolaro has consistently displayed the qualities of dedication and technical excellence in all actions consistently supporting the Department of Army and the Vicenza Military Community. Although his hobbies of fishing, archery and other interests will occupy his time, he will be missed both professionally and personally. He made a positive difference every day and both our professional and personal lives were enriched with him being part of our Department of Army workforce and co-worker. In all future endeavors, we wish him and his family the best as they continue on life's journey after retirement!



509TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

SOCIAL MEDIA SITES NEWS
ARTICLE

Today's society employs many methodologies for sharing information and communicating with co-workers, friends, acquaintances, family members, and others. This brief overview will look at Social Media platforms, along with their strengths and vulnerabilities as used in today's Army.

Since its inception, the Internet has dramatically changed the way people communicate. As the Internet has become more pervasive, communication and information sharing have evolved from a one-way information sharing process to a dynamic and collaborative process for sharing ideas and building social networking environments which can support virtual communities of interest, real time news feeds and dynamically share digital media. At the same time, social media outlets, also dubbed "new media" feature rich social exchange platforms for professional and personal interests.

According to Lt. Col Frederick P. Wellman, a former executive officer with Defense Media Activity, "The new media environment is where our target audiences reside. Over 90% of Americans now get their news from the internet while the numbers for all other platforms continue to fall."

Our next generation of Soldiers have particularly embraced social media.

"The 18-25 year old generation has never known an internet that wasn't Web 2.0...where they can comment on news stories, share them on their Facebook pages or discuss the news of the day on their blogs," said Wellman. "For us to speak to our Soldiers and the external Army audience we have to be in the space they are occupying on the internet."

This new media has recently been recognized by the Department of Defense as a platform to reach a broader audience and a valuable asset to disseminating information. In reality, it is being actively utilized by many DoD activities and organiza-

tions today to disseminate their Command message and program.

The Department of Army has an obligation to tell our story in these spaces to promote and disseminate the Command message.

One such DoD organization, located in Vicenza Italy, which utilizes Social Media sites very effectively is the "United States Army Africa (USARAF)" – an Army Service component Command under the U.S. African Command. Accessing their website, at www.usaraf.army.mil, provides viewers an illustrative and real-time example of how the Army is using social media platforms to successfully disseminate command information to customers geographically disbursed on the African Continent and around the world.

According to Lt. Col. David Konop, U.S. Army Africa's public affairs officer believes social media has truly revolutionized the way the Army shares command information. "Now, for the first time, the global military community has instant access to Army news, photos and videos – wherever and whenever they want it."

"Our social networking initiatives are aimed at making it easier for the audiences we serve to stay informed and help tell the Army story with a click of the mouse," said Konop. "We've seen a growing interest in our social media sites and now have thousands of followers on our Twitter and Facebook pages."

5th Signal Command, in collaboration with USAREUR leadership, is currently identifying how best to integrate these invaluable mediums into their web-based communications systems.

It is incumbent upon all DoD and DA organizations to ensure that the highest level of security and data integrity is maintained while simultaneously communicating the desired information to the intended customer. From an Information Assurance perspective, there are multiple resources available to safeguard your mission data and Personally Identifiable Information (PII) when accessing Social Media Sites. Your local Signal Battalion

Network Enterprise Center (NEC) can also provide you with technical assistance.

As with any evolving and growing technology; it's a delicate balancing act between provide open access while simultaneously ensuring required Information Assurance Security standards are firmly established. Your organizational or local Public Affairs Office (PAO) should also be actively involved in approving information for public release.

As the Department of Defense and Department of Army look towards the future and the evolving role of Information Technology (IT), the daily challenge becomes providing an open environment while maintaining constant computer vigilance.

Finally, the Army Europe – Information Training Technology Program (AE-ITT), is currently offering social networking media courses in Germany, Italy, Belgium and the Balkan's theater to Soldiers, civilians, host nation employees, and family member. This course was custom designed to the social media "essentials" and the skills-sets required to ensure the safeguarding of PII and sensitive data. It is highly recommended that all Army Europe computer users contact their servicing AE-ITT Program office or their your local signal Battalion, for further information on this new course.

Remember: Ensure you always have safe "electronic" travels in your daily professional and personal life. See you on-line!

Submitted By:
Johnathan Bingham, Information Assurance Manager
Thomas Mathias, Deputy Director
Network Enterprise Center / 509th Signal Battalion



MESSAGE FROM THE HHC COMMAND TEAM



CPT Sirena Sias



1SG Joseph Williams

Message from the Command Team:

HHC 2nd Signal Brigade provided assistance to the Mannheim Mustangs track and field meet this year on the Sullivan Barracks Track. Although it was a cold, grey, rainy day, the track meet went very well and all those who participated had a good time, showed true sportsmanship and the crowd showed there full support. The soldiers of 2nd Signal Brigade helped support events such as the relay, high jump, long jump, and lane timers.

In addition, HHC 2nd Signal Brigade has supported the 5th Signal Command NCOY/SOY competition by providing ranges for the M16 rifle and supporting all of the hands on tasks that be needed for this grueling competition. Good luck to all those that are competing.

Sirena Sias
CPT, SC
Commanding

HHC NEWS AND PICTURES



1SG Williams
welcomes all
attendees.



SFC Brown (left) hails SGT Marsland (right) to the Brigade.



MSG Bravo
(center) is
fairwelled by
SGM Williams
(right) and LTC
Dodson (left).



SFC Powell (left)
and CPT Sias
(right) enjoying the
Hail and Fairwell.



HHC PICTURES



SPCs Maniz (left) and Ruland (right) share a laugh at the Hail and Fairwell.



SGT Fisher (right) fairwells SPC Bray (left).



SPC Keohanam (left) and SGT Magana (right) speak after they are fairwelled.



SFC Brown (left) hails PV2 Reed (right).



SGT (center) and Mrs Davidson receive flowers from 1SG Williams (left).